

0030-1

Document 0030

Dear Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham c/o Mrs. Ellen Russell

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham,

The majority of California residents, along with Greenpeace, are demanding clean renewable resources, but multinational corporations are pressuring both States to invest in foreign liquid natural gas that could fuel an explosion of dirty power plants on the border. Instead, the U.S. and Mexican governments should be working to bring clean renewable energy to Mexico and the California.

The residents of the California and Mexico border deserve clean renewable energy sources. These populations suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of water. Imperial County, California has by far the highest childhood asthma rates in the State. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County. The county is a Federal non-attainment area for PM10 and ozone. Air monitoring data available for Mexicali show the city's air quality is at least as bad as conditions in Imperial County. DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and PM10 emissions from Interge's La Rosita Power Complex (LRPC) and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali (TDM), threatens the health and well being of communities on both sides of the border. Adequate air and water quality mitigation measures must be included in the final EIS to effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by the LRPC and TDM power plants.

The recent scandal involving Interge's misrepresentation of its environmental practices indicates that Presidential Permits should not be granted. Interge displayed its complete disregard for the pollution control commitments made to the DOE by failing to install advanced smog controls on one of its two export units at the time of commercial startup (June 2003). When local communities discovered Interge's failure, the result was a two month forced shutdown of the unit, which ended only when the appropriate pollution control system was installed. The uncontrolled unit generated hundreds of tons of NOx beyond what the DOE estimated when initially granting a Presidential Permit that allowed Interge to transmit power to the U.S. While the situation has now been corrected, the damages done while the plant was operating without meeting environmental standards are reprehensible. The

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Document 0029

Ellen Russell
NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Sempra Energy and Interge mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. The DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Interge's La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,

lack of accountability in the current Presidential Permit process must be addressed and corrected.

The two power projects should be retrofitted to parallel wet-dry cooling systems. This would greatly reduce the amount of water used by the plants while maintaining full power generating capacity on hot days. The parallel cooling option would also restore most of the river’s flow to the Salton Sea and minimize PM10 emissions from exposed shoreline. The New River that is affected by this salinity is crucial because it flows northward from Mexicali to the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County. The Salton Sea suffers from ever increasing salinity and decreased volume, which exposes the shoreline to wind erosion. These harms jeopardize its status as one of the most important migratory bird habitats in the West.

The salinity problem is exacerbated by the plants’ practice of dumping high salinity wastewater directly into the New River. A prohibition on the dumping of high salinity wastewater into the New River would effectively address the dangerous changes in the salinity levels of the New River and the Salton Sea.

Secretary Abraham, as the head of the Department of Energy, you should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by the power plants. I also urge you to work together with the Mexican and California governments to bring clean renewable energy solutions to the region. Renewable energy like wind and solar will solve the air and water problems that plague the area and help solve our looming global warming crisis.

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(cont.)

Document 0030a

Dear Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham c/o Mrs. Ellen Russell

0030-2

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to make additional profits in the U.S. at the expense of public health and the environment. Population centers along the U.S.-Mexico border generally suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of water. Imperial County, California has by far the highest childhood asthma rates in the State. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County. The county is a Federal non-attainment area for PM10 and ozone. Air monitoring data available for Mexicali show the city’s air quality is at least as bad as conditions in Imperial County. DOE’s failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and PM10 emissions from Interger’s La Rosita Power Complex (LRPC) and Semptra’s Termoeléctrica de Mexicali (TDM), threatens the health and well being of communities on both sides of the border. Adequate air and water quality mitigation measures must be included in the final EIS to effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by the LRPC and TDM power plants.

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The recent scandal involving Interger’s misrepresentation of its environmental practices indicates that adequate and ongoing monitoring, reporting and enforcement provisions must be made if Presidential Permits are going to be granted. Interger displayed its complete disregard for the pollution control commitments made to the DOE by failing to install advanced smog controls on one of its two export units at the time of commercial startup (June 2003). When local communities discovered Interger’s failure, the result was a two month forced shutdown of the unit, which ended only when the appropriate pollution control system was installed. The uncontrolled unit generated hundreds of tons of NOx beyond what the DOE estimated when initially granting a Presidential Permit that allowed Interger to transmit power to the U.S. While the situation has now been corrected, the damages done while the plant was operating without meeting environmental standards are reprehensible. The lack of accountability in the current Presidential Permit process must be addressed and corrected.

The two power projects should be retrofitted to parallel wet-dry cooling systems. This would greatly reduce the amount of water used by the plants while maintaining full power generating capacity on hot days. The parallel cooling option would also restore most of the river’s flow to the Salton Sea and minimize PM10 emissions from exposed shoreline. The New River that is affected by this salinity is crucial because it flows northward from Mexicali to the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County. The Salton Sea suffers from ever increasing salinity and decreased volume, which exposes the shoreline to wind erosion. These harms jeopardize its status as one of the most important migratory bird habitats in the West.

The salinity problem is exacerbated by the plants’ practice of dumping high salinity wastewater directly into the New River. A prohibition on the dumping of high salinity wastewater into the New River would effectively address the dangerous changes in the salinity levels of the New River and the Salton Sea.

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Document 0031

Ellen Russell
NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,
I ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation. It is clearly pointless to have clean air standards if they can be circumvented by positioning plants near the border and then selling the power they produce across the border.

Sincerely,
Kent Wooldridge

0030a-3

Secretary Abraham, as the head of the Department of Energy, you should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by the power plants.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Frank Stivers
Ripley, Ohio

0033-1

Document 0033

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them. Sincerely,

Stacy L. Ozesmi

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Stacy L. Ozesmi, PhD

current address:
31 Redtail Dr #27
Coralville, IA 52241
319 339-4677
stacyozesmi@earthlink.net

0032-1

Document 0032

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy require that Semptra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Gary Brazel
140 Cadman Plaza West Apt.10D
Brooklyn, New York 11201

0035-1

Document 0035

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

As a concerned citizen and compassionate human being, I am horrified at U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment.

I ask that the Department of Energy require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Thank you kindly.

Sincerely,

Casey Roth
291 S. Euclid Avenue
#210
Pasadena, California 91101

0034-1

Document 0034

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the air and water impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

The draft EIS prepared by DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies these impacts, while at the same time concluding that these impacts do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these impacts further demonstrates the need for impact mitigation and conditional permitting.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Ron Richards
1546 E. Blacklidge Dr.
Tucson, Arizona 85719

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Document 0037

Ms. Ellen Russell NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ms. Russell,

It has come to my attention that two U.S. power plant developers (Sempra Energy and Intergen) are seeking permits to send electricity generated at plants in Mexico near its border with the U.S. into the United States. I also understand that these plants do not currently meet environmental standards imposed by the U.S. for its power plants. As granting them permits to distribute energy in the U.S. would likely encourage other such operations, to the detriment of surrounding areas’ states of personal and environmental health, I encourage you to not to grant these plants permits to distribute their power in the U.S. unless they can meet the standards that we require of our own power plants.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

B. Todd Shirley
Jersey City, New Jersey

0036-1

Document 0036

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am writing to insist that the Department of Energy (DOE) require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation. I am very concerned that U.S. power plant developers are taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts. Yet it concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. The DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling for salinity, and ignores other environmental impacts in Mexico. Inclusion of these effects further demonstrates the need for mitigation and conditional permitting.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. **I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.**

Sincerely,
Merril Cousin
1506-25th Ave. S
Seattle, WA 98144

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Document 0039

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

The draft EIS prepared by DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies these and other significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these impacts do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these impacts further demonstrates the need for impact mitigation and conditional permitting.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Maureen Lattimore
6221 S Madison ST
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

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Document 0038

Ellen Russell
NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,

I learned about U.S. power plant developers tattempting to take advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico during the NEPA process. It is very important the full NEPA process not be averted, shortened or avoided. That is your responsibility as a government worker and a US citizen.

The current NEPA regulation requires that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

That process must take into account the emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concludes that these problems do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation.

I will be looking for your decision on this matter and your response.

Sincerely

Christine Powell

PO Box 1583

El Granada, California 94018